

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 14, 19, 21, 25 have been amended. Claims 4, 9, 17 and 22 have been cancelled.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13, 14-16, 18, 19, 23, 24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,771,331 to Aoki et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,408,338 to Moon et al.

Claims 7 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Aoki in view of Moon and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2001/0026677 to Chen et al.

Applicants initially thank the Examiner for indicating in the action that claims 4, 8, 9, 12, 17, 21, 22 and 25 contain allowable subject matter but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 8 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 6. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 9. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of allowable claim 4. Claims 21 and 25 have been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of base claim 19. Claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 22. Claim 14 has been amended to include limitations of allowable claim 17.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all these claims are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION


In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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